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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OES-06 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-06
SAL-01 IO-13 /093 W
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R 241345Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0931
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03136

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, EEC, WB, UR, GW, US, UK, FR
SUBJECT: UK-FRG EXCHANGE ON INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN EC AGREEMENTS

1. AT GERMAN EMBASSY RECEPTION FEBRUARY 23, POLITICAL COUNSELOR LISTENED IN SILENCE TO POINTED EXCHANGE BETWEEN FCO POLITICAL DIRECTOR REG HIBBERT AND FRG MINISTER-COUNSELOR KURT STOECKL ON INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN EC AGREEMENTS. WHAT FOLLOWS IS NOT REPEAT NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT BUT A DISTILLATION OF THE MAIN ARGUMENTS MADE BY THE TWO MEN.

HIBBERT: JUST HOW MANY FISHING BOATS DOES BERLIN HAVE?
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STOECKL: IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF FISHING BOATS; IT IS A DOMESTIC POLITICAL MATTER. THE CHANCELLOR WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO GO BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG AND DEFEND AN EC-SOVIET FISHING AGREEMENT THAT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE BERLIN.

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HIBBERT: (INCREDULOUS) WOULD SCHMIDT REALLY HAVE DIFFICULTY DEFENDING SUCH AN AGREEMENT, OR DO YOU MEAN GENSCHER?

STOECKL: NO, NOT JUST GENSCHER. SCHMIDT TOO.

HIBBERT: I DISAGREE. HAVING LIVED FOUR YEARS IN BONN, I'M SURE SCHMIDT WOULD EASILY BE ABLE TO DEFEND IT IN THE BUNDESTAG. THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD BE HARD PUT TO EXPLAIN TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT THE EC HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REACH A FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION -- AN AGREEMENT THAT IS COMMERCIALLY IMPORTANT TO BRITAIN -- BECAUSE OF A DISPUTE OVER BERLIN WHICH DOES NOT EVEN HAVE ANY FISHING BOATS. IT'S LUDICROUS.

STOECKL: YES, BUT IF YOU DON'T INCLUDE BERLIN IN THE EC FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR, THEN THE SOVIETS WILL CITE THAT AS A PRECEDENT FOR EXCLUDING IT FROM THE EC-CEMA AGREEMENT.

HIBBERT: THE SOVIETS WON'T AGREE TO THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN AN EC-CEMA AGREEMENT IN ANY CASE.

STOECKL: THEN WE MUST BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THEM, USE LEVERAGE.

HIBBERT: YES, BUT WHOSE LEVERAGE. YOU WANT TO USE OUR LEVERAGE ON THE SOVIETS. THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD
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FOR YOU. YOU HAVE INTER-GERMAN TRADE. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO USE THAT TO EXERT LEVERAGE ON THE SOVIETS?

STOECKL: (DISCONCERTED) WELL, MAYBE, IT WOULD DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES.

HIBBERT: IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO THROW INTER-GERMAN TRADE INTO THE POT, THEN MAYBE WE'D CONSIDER THROWING IN FISHERIES.

IN CLOSING, BOTH MEN AGREED THE ISSUE WAS POLITICAL AND WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED AT A HIGH LEVEL. NEITHER TRIED TO DRAW OUT THE MUTE AMERICAN IN THE TRIO, SO IT WAS EASY FOR HIM "NOT TO TAKE SIDES" (STATE 37507).

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3242715
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK-FRG EXCHANGE ON INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN EC AGREEMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR, GE, US, UK, FR, EEC, (HIBBERT, REG), (STOECKL, KURT),
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/936ac1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009